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or subplicate and lacunose at the base, mouth at first closed by the marginal fringe of brown, septate, minutely-rough hairs; asci long, cylindric ; paraphyses simple, septate below, stout, not thickened above; sporidia uniseriate, rather acutely elliptical, filled with coarse granular matter and nuclei, .001′x.0005′.

Inside of an old stump, West Chester, Pa. W. T. Haines, August, 1879. (Ellis, *N. Am. Fungi*, No. 562.)

Peziza (Dasyscyphae) miniopsis.—Gregarious, sessile minute, .02′—.03′ across, clothed with a white tomentose coat of crisped hairs; disk scarlet and cup-shaped; asci clavato-cylindric, .0038′x .0005′; sporidia crowded, linear-lanceolate, .002′—.0025′ long, yellowish, nucleate and finally multiseptate; paraphyses filiform, not thickened above. The disk is orange when fresh and scarlet when dry.

On outer bark of living *Acer rubrum*. June. (Ellis, *N. Am. Fungi*, No. 563).

§ 60. **Lichens or Fungi ?**—I wish to ask the attention of botanists interested, to a forthcoming work of great research on the limits of the two classes named above. Dr. Arthur Minks of Stettin, Prussia, has already, by his "Contributions to the Knowledge of the Structure and Life of Lichens" (*Beiträge*, etc., pp. 126, and 2 plates, 1876), and especially by his larger work on "The Microgonidium" (pp. 250, and six plates, 1879), conciliated the thorough respect of all unprejudiced lovers of science. He has now begun another undertaking which appeals to mycologists even more than to lichenists. The evident approaches between the vast realm of the Fungi and the smaller, but higher and more readily comprehended domain of the Lichens, have been explained in such a way that, while a great deal remained evidently unsettled, the lichenologist gained the advantage of understanding after some fashion his position, while the mycologist (I venture here to speak from my own correspondence) found himself often in doubt, and without, it seemed, any sufficient criterion of judgment. It is surely interesting then, that, taking his departure from the essential distinction (as he undertakes to demonstrate it to be) between the *theca* of Lichens and the *ascus* of Fungi, Dr. Minks finds himself now in position to declare that the boundary line separating the Lichen-world from that of the Fungi runs far within the present limits of the latter; and that we are henceforth to look not (with Sachs, *Lehrbuch*, edit. 3, p. 266) towards an ill-assorted union of Lichens with the Ascomycetes, but quite the other way. Many thousands of species of so-called Fungi are thus to be elevated, or relegated to the other class; and a most important step in this way taken towards the removal of manifest, and not by every one approachable, difficulties of the System of Plants.

Dr. Minks proposes to give sufficient anatomical-morphological sketches of every species examined by him, not excluding the discussion of generical and species-values, much in the manner of his "Morphologisch-Lichenographische Studien," in *Flora*, 1880, n. 33, 34. He will also fully consider such plants as, while appearing to belong to the number of those which are well-associable in some or other respects with Lichens, yet remain without doubt Fungi; and seek, in a word, to draw the new line of separation of the two divisions as sharply as possible.

The title of the new work is "Symbolae licheno-mycologicae. Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Grenzen zwischen Flechten und Pilzen." Cassel; Theodor Fischer. The first number will be published in June; and future ones, each to embrace about two hundred species, will follow annually. As there are no plates, the price will be moderate. Orders may be addressed to the publisher, or otherwise.

EDW. TUCKERMAN.

§ 61. **Unusual Habitat of a Coprinus.**—In October, 1880, I received from Framingham, Mass., a quantity of water which contained a large amount of *Coelosphaerium Kützingianum*. The water was placed in a clean glass jar and covered with a pane of glass. I had intended to watch the phenomena attending the purifying of the water, which is generally accomplished in about a fortnight, the slimy bluish-green masses of the algae gradually dissolving and forming a slight deposit at the bottom of the jar, leaving the water clear above. Contrary to my usual experience, the greenish masses did not disappear, and the contents of the jar remained scarcely changed until early in December. At that date, I noticed spots of mould in several places on the top of the rather thick fluid, and, on examination the hyphae were seen to proceed from small black sclerotia sunk just below the surface. The hyphae, in the course of a few days, developed into small *Coprini* scarcely more than a quarter of an inch high. On Dec. 13th, being about to close my laboratory for some time, I was obliged to throw away the contents of the jar before the *Coprini* had matured, and it was impossible to say with certainty what the species was, although it apparently was a small form of what is figured by Brefeld in *Botanische Untersuchungen über Schimmelpilze*, Part 3, as *Coprinus stercorarius*. Although it is possible to raise *Coprini* on slides in a decoction of horse dung, their spontaneous occurrence in water containing algae is unusual, and the appearance of the small *Coprini* as they rose from the surface of the water, which was between five and six inches deep, was very singular. The sclerotia of the *Coprinus* were certainly not in the water when first placed in the jar, as they would easily have been seen in the frequent microscopical examinations of the water made in October; but the fungi were probably produced from spores remaining from a culture of *Coprinus* made in the laboratory about six months before the water was received from Framingham. The jar had previously contained a quantity of growing *Nitella* and was carefully cleaned before the Framingham water was poured into it.

W. G. FARLOW.

§ 62. **Note on Laminariae.**—In the BULLETIN for November, 1880, there is a note by Mr. F. S. Collins on a *Laminaria* found on the coast of Maine, and referred by him to *L. longipes*, Bory. In his "Examen des espèces confondues sous le nom de *Laminaria digitata*," Le Jolis states that an examination of the Bory herbarium showed